

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Redesignation of Auxiliary Technical Battalions

1. In the middle of April 1954, the Ministry of National Defense abolished by special decree the Auxiliary Technical Battalions (PTP) as such and renamed them Technical Battalions. The decree was read to the men of the 57th Auxiliary Technical Battalion in Smecno (N 50-11, E 14-03) at a special ceremony by the commanding officer, Major KNIZEK, who added that the men would henceforth be equipped with arms like any other regular soldiers. Then the battalion CO solemnly handed over to all the NCO's new insignia for Technical Battalions, consisting of a red star with a pyramid with yellow and red fields, across which were two crossed miners' hammers. Some days later there was a parade of the whole battalion and on this occasion all the remaining members of the battalion also received the new insignia. The 57th Auxiliary Technical Battalion, renamed the 57th Technical Battalion, received a shipment of 98 N rifles and model C-25 submachine guns, and soon afterwards started training with the new arms. 25X1
2. The change brought a definite advantage to the former members of PTP battalions because, while there military service was of an indefinite duration before, now, after two years of service as full members of the armed forces, they will be demobilized. This has already been manifested by the release in January and April 1954 of all men who had served for more than two years in the PTP.

57th Technical Battalion

3. The 57th Technical Battalion [redacted] was stationed in the former castle in Smecno, district Kladno. It originated from the former 57th Auxiliary Technical Battalion, which in April 1954 was given the present title. The battalion has six companies, each about 160 men strong. The companies are quartered as follows: 25X1

1st company Stochov (former miner apprentices' house)
2nd company Dubi u Kladna (in wooden huts)
3rd company Stochov (former castle)

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC									
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4th company Stochov (former castle)

5th company ?

6th company Stochov (former miner apprentices' house).

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4. The battalion is employed in Kladno mines. The 1st and 6th companies work in the Vaclav Nosek Mine in Tuchlovice; the 3rd and 4th companies in the Csl. Armady Mine; the 2nd company in the Antonin Zapotocky Mine near Dubi.

5. The following was the daily program:

0500	reveille
0500 - 0600	washing, tidying, breakfast, travel to work
0600 - 1400	mining shift
1400 - 1500	travel from work, lunch
1500 - 1800	military training, political indoctrination
1800 - 1900	tidying, cleaning of equipment
1900 - 1930	supper
1930 - 2000	reading of daily bulletin
2000 - 2100	mass activities, or free time
2100	lights out

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6.

7. The work in the mines is very hard and, although it appears on paper to be well paid, the men actually received very little money. If, for instance, a man was earning 1,600 Kcs. monthly, 580 Kcs. was subtracted for his food, 250 Kcs. for taxes and social insurance, 100 Kcs. for housing and use of military equipment. Out of the remaining 670 Kcs. one-half was put into a savings account and 335 Kcs. were actually paid out to the soldier. The soldiers always had the feeling that their wages were not calculated justly and that they were being deprived of part of their earnings. Besides that, nearly every other Sunday they were required to work voluntarily for some Communist propaganda cause like, for instance, the reconstruction of North Korea, help to the fighting Vietnamese, etc. All of this and the lack of free time and passes resulted in generally low morale.

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